

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION & MARINE
MUNICIPAL GOLF COMMISSION MINUTES**

FEBRUARY 22, 2006

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Municipal Golf Commission was called to order by Chairman Skip Rowland, at 3:30 p.m. in the classroom at Heartwell Junior Golf Building, 6730 E. Carson Street, Long Beach, California. Chairman Rowland took roll call and confirmed a quorum.

Present:

Skip Rowland, Chairman	Len Kennett
Phil Barlow, Vice-Chairman	Ray McElhenney
Robin Bellamy	John McCann
Gail Berns	Matt Knabe
Linda Cook	Bob Peeters
Tonny Christensen	Becky Turley
Betty Hatcher	

Excused:

Tom Shippey, Manager of Maintenance Operations
Jay Carballo, Regional Director of American Golf

Staff:

Phil T. Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation & Marine
Terry Lortz, Superintendent of Golf Operations
Emy Arteaga, Golf Operations Support

American Golf:

Jason Koh, General Manager of Skylinks Golf Course
Larry Ulich, General Manager of El Dorado Golf Course
Brett Skinner, General Manager of Recreation Park 18 Golf Course
Frank Jordan, General Manager of Recreation Park 9 Golf Course
Michelle Dimaano, General Manager of Heartwell Golf Course
Lisa Georgeson, Junior Golf Coordinator
Dennis Wright, Tournament Coordinator

Audience:

Michael Riley
Bill Barfield
George Bedel, Los Angeles County

2. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

- Chairman Rowland welcomed and asked all guests to please sign in and introduce themselves.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 25, 2006

- The minutes of the January 25, 2006 meeting were reviewed and approved.

It was moved by Commissioner Peeters and seconded by Commissioner Cook that the Municipal Golf Commission approves the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

4. GOLF SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- Rounds of golf for January were up by 8,844 (34.71%) over the total course rounds for January. Total rounds of golf were up by 8,844 (34.71%) for the year compared to this time last year.
- Mr. Lortz reviewed the highlights of the Monthly Facilities Report and asked the commissioners if they had any questions on the report.
- Chairman Rowland inquired as to why we have items listed on the monthly facilities report that happened a month ago. Mr. Lortz stated we had discussed this before and it was mentioned that this report is a handy sheet to have and refer back as to when certain maintenance items were completed at the courses. It's a good reference tool on the maintenance work that has happened or is taking place at each of the golf courses.
- Mr. Lortz showed a power point slide presentation of the El Dorado Maintenance Yard renovation. Commissioners were reminded that American Golf paid for the renovation.
- Mr. Lortz showed a picture of the proposed new building for Jim Choura, El Dorado Concessionaire.
- Mr. Lortz shared a 1.5-minute video presentation of 4-year-old Jaden Cantafio the future Tiger Woods. He comes in at Heartwell Golf Course early between 6:00-7:00 a.m. with his dad to practice.
- Mr. Lortz presented a power point slide show of the Junior Golf Association's Christmas party on December 6, 2005.
- Mr. Lortz showed a power point slide show presentation on Golf Truisms that Commissioner Peeters provided to share with commissioners and golfers.
- CIP Golf Fund - Current balance approximately = \$28,199
- CIP Surcharge Fund Total = \$167,585

5. AMERICAN GOLF REPORT

- Brett Skinner, General Manager at Recreation Park 18 Golf Course provided an update on maintenance projects at the golf course.
 - In the process of finishing the 1st tee.
 - Bunker has two more holes to fill with sand.
- Commissioner Cook asked if staff had equipment to spread sand traps? Mr. Skinner stated yes all courses have power equipment called San Pros.
- Commissioner Turley stated that the sand traps are groomed daily right? Mr. Skinner stated yes.
- Commissioner Turley asked if there was a policy about leaving rakes inside or outside the bunkers? Mr. Skinner stated its course discretion unless there's an issue, please come and see him.
- Chairman Rowland stated that near #9 the road is slippery and a caddy walk would be a great solution. Mr. Skinner stated that a caddy walk is under way.
- Michelle Dimaano, General Manager at Heartwell Course provided an update on maintenance projects at the golf course.
 - Rototilling all bunkers.
- Commissioner Christensen stated that \$2.75 for a fountain drink is very expensive and feels there should be something that can be done especially for the junior golfers. Miss Dimaano stated she is working on a junior menu.
- Frank Jordan, General Manager at Recreation Park 9 Golf Course provided an update on maintenance projects at the golf course.
 - Currently working on sod issues on #2, 3, 5, 6, & 9.
 - Repairing the netting behind the 5th hole.
 - Working on leveling the tees.
- Commissioner McCann toured the golf course today and stated it looks good and the difference can be seen. The Pro Shop is very organized and stocked better than he has ever seen it.
- Commissioner McCann inquired about the possibility of a practice facility or warm up station to enhance the course. Mr. Jordan stated it's something that has been considered and discussed in the past and is still being considered.
- Commissioner McCann asked whose responsibility did Colorado Lagoon fall under? It has excessive trash build up, what can be done about this? Mr. Hester stated it's the county's responsibility and the department is working on addressing this issue. The department has applied for a 3.8 million grant for dredging and building a structure for better water flow.

- Larry Ulich, General Manager at El Dorado Golf Course provided an update on maintenance projects at the golf course.
 - Netting range on the north and south side was replaced.
 - Tree trimming has been completed
 - Maintenance shop was renovated.
 - Practice bunker to be completed by this Saturday.
 - Sod is next on some of the cart paths.
- Commissioner Peeters asked if anything was being done to control the water in the fairways? Mr. Ulich stated they are continually adjusting the system as needed.
- Commissioner Cook asked if there were plans to scheduled the driving range rotation. Mr. Ulich will look into a possible change in the rotation schedule.
- Commissioner Kennett asked how the El Dorado concessionaire charges \$1.60 for a fountain drink when at the other four golf courses golfers were paying \$2.75. How is this being managed? It was pointed out that the prices haven't been raised for over two years and the \$2.75 is for a 32 oz. refillable cup and the \$1.60 is for a smaller 24 oz. cup.
- Commissioner Cook inquired about the restroom and drinking fountain on the course who maintains it? Mr. Ulich stated it's a joint responsibility between Mr. Choura and American Golf. If there is a problem, leave a message with the receptionist and it will be given to staff. Mr. Lortz stated that the drinking fountain is part of the renovation at the snack bar and restroom to be done before the Long Beach Open.
- Commissioner Cook stated she was not aware of the building remodeling. Mr. Lortz stated the department and Mr. Choura had been involved in permit discussions with the Fire Department.
- Commissioner Bellamy asked what happened to the questions about extending the building and the impact it has on parking at El Dorado Golf Course what changed? Mr. Lortz stated the project is still in the works and we have met with the Stearns Neighborhood Association and also Mr. Dick Burns (lives across from the golf course) knows about the project and his supportive.
- Jason Koh, General Manager at Skylinks Golf Course provided an update on maintenance projects at the golf course.
 - Entry way is being landscaped and marigolds have been added at the corners.
 - #1 putting area has been aerified.
 - A bridal show was held on February 18th and the course now has 35 planned weddings.

- Mr. Lortz stated the motherboard for the electronic sign has been tested and it's operational. Mr. Lortz will work with Mr. Koh to get the Skylinks sign operational again.
- Commissioner Peeters inquired about the parking lot signs. Mr. Koh stated it would be another two weeks before the parking lot signs are available.
- Commissioner Kennett stated that Skylinks Golf Course is also failing to provide a competitive price for fountain drinks.
- Commissioner Bellamy asked why wires in the #6 bunker were exposed? Mr. Koh stated maybe it's the wiring for the old sprinkler system. Mr. Koh will check on removing the wires.
- Commissioner McCann asked about the golf professionals contract. Mr. Koh stated the contract has not been finalized because legal clarification is being sought.
- Chairman Rowland thanked all general managers for attending and providing golf course maintenance updates.
- Ms. Lisa Georgeson provided an update on the various junior golf programs in our City.
 - Junior Golf 1% Fund available balance 1/30/0 = \$107,922.79
 - Little Linksters Fund available balance 1/30/06 = \$64,880.75
 - The Long Beach Junior Golf Association has begun its year with a registered membership of 356 junior golfers.
 - The Long Beach Junior Golf Association held a Junior/Adult Tournament on Friday, February 24th approximately 100 juniors and parents participated in this event.
 - The Long Beach Junior Golf Association held their first away-tournament event at Recreation Park 9 Golf Course on Saturday, February 18th. Trophies were awarded in seven flights for both boys and girls. The low score of the event was turned in by eleven year old Esther Lee. Esther shot an even par 62 for eighteen holes.
 - A special thank you was expressed to Commissioner Bellamy and Commissioner Hatcher for volunteering and supporting this all day event.
 - The Long Beach Junior Golf Association has tentatively scheduled another away tournament for March 25, 2006 at Dominguez Golf Course.

- The Long Beach Junior Golf Association will hold their Annual Open House on Saturday, April 29, 2006 at Heartwell Golf Course.
- Classes for the Long Beach Chapter of the NAACP are again being planned for the summer months of June, July, and August.
- Planning for this summers Little Linksters Program is under way. The applications will be available on April 1, 2006. The two-session program is scheduled for July 10-14 and July 17-21 at Heartwell Golf Course.

6. COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. Capital Improvement Projects

- Commissioner McCann requested a priority list for the CIP Committee to work with.

B. Fees and Charges

- The committee chairman requested a meeting for Wednesday, March 22nd at 2:30 p.m.

C. Hall of Fame

- The committee chairman requested a meeting for Wednesday, March 22nd at 2:30 p.m.

D. Policies and Procedures

- Commissioner Christensen would like to meet in March.

E. Tournaments

- No Committee

F. Junior Golf Advisory

- The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 16th at 3:30 p.m.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None

8. NEW BUSINESS

- Craig Kessler, Executive Director with Public Links Golf Association gave a presentation to the commission and staff on the many benefits provided by the

PLGA organization for members and the City. Mr. Kessler gave an overview of the programs available to the City to tap into and take advantage. A meeting with City and AGC staff will be scheduled as soon as possible.

- Chairman Rowland reminded all commissioners to turn in their Statement of Economic Interest Form 700 today or before February 27, 2006. The forms are due by March 1, 2006 to the City Clerk's Office.

9. COMMENTS

A. AUDIENCE

- Mr. George Bedel asked if Mr. Choura will receive a lease extension. Mr. Lortz stated it potentially could happen they have another 12 years to go on their current lease.

B. STAFF

- Mr. Lortz is working with Ms. Dimaano and Ms. Georgeson on remodeling the classroom at the Heartwell Junior Golf Building with new carpet and furniture.
- In response to the comments on the pricing for fountain drinks at the golf course, Mr. Lortz stated a survey will have to be done to make sure were compatible with what is being charged at other comparable golf courses in the area.

C. COMMISSIONERS

- Commissioner Barlow inquired about the CIP reflecting the carry over monies from previous years. Mr. Lortz stated that everything will be shown and carried over from 2003 to the present. Vice-Chairman Barlow stressed the point that the surcharge report is building up and strongly feels the surcharge should be stopped.
- Commissioner Christensen would like the CIP Surcharge Report in detail for all commissioners to view and see what is being summarized and charged for.
- Commissioner Peeters stated no golf carts at El Dorado parking lot is not working. The starter is very busy in the early morning hours and usually the only one there and has to close shop to go out and bring in golf clubs. Is this a permanent solution? Mr. Ulich stated it's permanent.
- Mr. Bill Barfield stated that the first lease operators were to furnish someone to carry your bags when requested.
- Chairman Rowland requested that golf carts be placed on the next agenda for next month for further discussion.

- Commissioner Turley asked how many accidents have actually happened? Mr. Lortz stated none that he is aware of.
- Chairman Rowland reminded all commissioners about the process to follow when filling out a golf comment card. Mr. Lortz stated that it was understood that the process to follow was to inform the general manager at the golf course before leaving. The golf comment cards are welcomed but it would be resolved quicker if the general managers were notified of the problem ahead of time.
- Commissioner McCann shared with the commission that he had written a response to the disparaging comments made about the golf commission by Mike Ortega in the article published in the December issue of the Public Links Golf Almanac in the message from the Presidents Desk.
- Commissioner Christensen stated that the commission as a whole works very hard to submit reports but feels the commission has not been very effective. Commissioner Christensen feels some how the commission has not managed to get it done.
- Chairman Rowland summarized his 2005-2006 he would like to accomplish before he leaves. He would like an accounting of the Skylinks golf course renovation, CIP balances, manual rewrite, and the maintenance standards for all golf courses.

10. NEXT MEETING

**April 26, 2006 at 3:30 p.m.
Heartwell Junior Golf Building
6730 E. Carson Street
Long Beach, CA 90808**

11. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Emy R. Arteaga
Golf Operations Support

c: Municipal Golf Commission
Reginald I. Harrison, Deputy City Manager
Phil T. Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine
Thomas A. Shippey, Manager of Maintenance Operations
Terry L. Lortz, Superintendent of Golf Operations
Jay Carballo, Regional Director of American Golf Corporation